ration extends to other outstation establishments of the Plant including its Calcutta office. Therefore, the question of according recognition to Bokaro Steel Plant Employees Union (Calcutta) does not arise.

Special programme for the unemployed persons

2211. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st July, 1989 and state whether Government propose to chalk out any special programmes to provide employment to the unemployed persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): The Central element of the development strategy of Seventh Plan is generation of productive employment. Besides development programmes for various sectors, a number of special employment programmes are already being implemented. During the current year (1989-90), these efforts are being intensified through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

SC|ST living below the poverty line

2212. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his latest report have observed that about 70 per cent of the Scheduled Castes people in the country continue to live below the poverty line;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the findings of the Commissioner for SC/ST; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) The latest report i.e. 28th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes says that the proportion of people below poverty line among the Scheduled Castes was estimated to be about 70 per cent as against the overall average of 48 per cent among the general population in 1978-79.

(b) The said report which has been tabled in Parliament on 9th May, 1989 may be referred to for this information.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to alleviate the economic position of Scheduled Caste families below poverty line. Special Central Assistance, which is an additive to the States' Plans, the economic support schemes taken up by the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations, the efforts under the Special Component Plans of the Central Ministries/ Deptts. and States/Union Territories, etc. have ben geared to improve the lot to Scheduled Caste families below poverty line.

2213. [*Transferred to the 8th August*, 1989]

Chaff cutter accidents

2214. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the chaff cutter accidents as compared to the thresher accidents annually in the agricultural sector in the country according to the assessment, if any, made by Government;

(b) what is the percentage of rise in the chaff cutter accidents, the age group of such accident victims, the nature of the assistance given by Government for their rehabilitation; and

(c) what are the details of the research, if any, done to bring about improvement in the chaff cutter designs to make it more safer and accidents free?